

“LISTEN UP... LIVE OUT”

JAMES 1:19-25

“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”

Context:

V.1 – James wrote this letter to people that are suffering hard times in their lives.

V 2-12 – We can (and should) have joy throughout trials because God uses them for our good.

V.13-18 – We shouldn’t blame God for our temptations or when we give in to sin.

Theme: If we call ourselves genuine Christians, we will **seek after** what God has for us and we will **do** what God wants of us.

- God’s ways – not our ways – must be sought after and lived out.

I. Listen Up! ...We must get rid of our *naturally* sinful ways, by...

How are we to get rid of our sinful ways, and live pure Christian lives? By...

A. Being quick to receive instruction (of God). (v.19a)

We need to pay attention, specifically, to the instruction of God.

B. Being slow to demand on our own intellect. (V.19b)

Do I make it a point to read, study, and listen to godly counsel? Or do I make it a point to make my opinion most important in every conversation?

C. Being slow to become angry. (V.19c, 20)

-A person who gets angry at a situation that they are in is a person who is not resting content in the sovereignty and love/care of God

-It is perfectly okay (and necessary) to defend God’s honor.

D. By determining to stop the flow of wickedness in our lives. (v.21a)

“Superfluity of naughtiness” is a way of describing our overabundance of sin.

The idea is that sin is like a constant flowing faucet.

E. By meekly receiving the only thing that can truly save us... God’s Word and ways. (v.21b)

-This refers to both the Living Word of God – Jesus – and the written word of God – the Bible.

-God’s Word is the only thing able to save us from our natural flow to do evil.

-That is why it is so important for us to treat God’s Word (both written and Living) with respect and honor. It should be the first thing that we turn to.

II. Live it Out! ...We must seek after *and* do God’s ways.

The Genuine Christian life doesn’t stop at simply being receptive to the things of God. We must live them out! That is James point here.

There are 4 things that James brings out in verses 22-25 that will help us live out God’s Word...

The first thing that James says will help us live out God's Word is...

A. We must be receptive to God's Word ("not hearers only")

The key word in this phrase is "only"

B. We must not only be receptive, but must also obey and apply God's Word to our lives.

-The Bible is only doing its job in our lives when we take it from a head knowledge and move it to our actions.

Life Application Study Bible - "*It is important to know what God's Word says, but it is much more important to obey it. We can measure the effectiveness of our Bible study time by the effect it has on our behavior and attitudes.*"

A simple intellectual Christianity without actions is a worthless, vain Christianity!

C. We must not deceive ourselves spiritually.

If our Christianity is not producing active faith that flows from a solid knowledge of God's Word, then our Christianity is not the true Christianity that God desires.

We deceive ourselves spiritually...

1. By simply observing God's Word intellectually, but not applying it. (v.23)

-"glass" is actually referring to God's Word.

2. By hearing, but forgetting... not internalizing God's Word. (v.24)

The only stabilizing thing in this life is God's Word and God's way.

D. We will be blessed if we internalize and do/apply God's Word and ways. (v.25)

- "*The perfect law of liberty*" is referring to God's ways that are found in His Word.

- The word "*looketh*" in this verse is different than "*beholdeth*" found in verses 23-24. "*Looketh*" means "to bend towards and look very carefully," ...not just to glance but to gaze.

-The careless man looks in a mirror and forgets what he sees, but the earnest man looks into the Word of God and acts on what he sees.

So What?

-We must **humbly seek** what God has for us and must **do it**/live it out in their lives.

-God's ways – not my ways – must be sought after and lived out.

Tonight we looked at 2 actions that demonstrate Pure/Genuine religion. If we are genuine Christians we must:

1. Listen up to God's Word and His instruction!

2. Live out God's ways!

There are three types of people here tonight...

1. Those that are not listening to God's Word nor following His ways:

2. Those that are listening to God's Word intently, but are not living it out:

3. Those who are listening to God's Word intently and are living out God's ways:

...Which type are you???